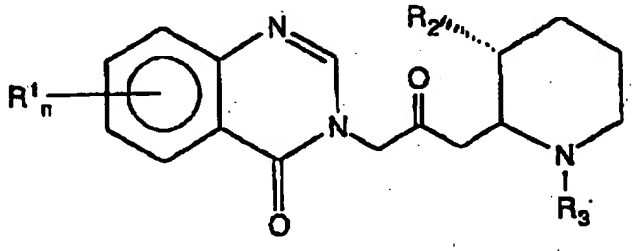
This application is the United States national phase application of International Application PCT/IL99/00440, filed August 13, 1999 and designating the United States [35 U.S.C. § 371], which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) from Israeli Patent Application No. 125790, and under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) from United States Provisional Application 60/137,145, filed June 1, 1999.

C1

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 17, 18, 20, 21 and 23, without prejudice and add the following claims.

24. (New) A method for inhibiting a pathological increase in collagen volume in heart tissue, the method comprising the step of administering a compound having a formula:



C2

wherein:

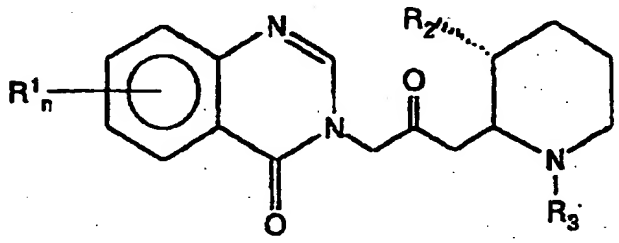
R_1 is a member of the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, nitro, benzo, lower alkyl, phenyl and lower alkoxy; R is a member of the group consisting of hydroxy, acetoxy and lower alkoxy; R_3 is a member of the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkenoxy-carbonyl; and *n* is either 1 or 2; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the compound is halofuginone.

cont'd

C7

26. (New) A method for inhibiting the expression of collagen α1(I) mRNA in heart tissue, the method comprising the step of administering a compound having a formula:



wherein:

R_1 is a member of the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, nitro, benzo, lower alkyl, phenyl and lower alkoxy; R is a member of the group consisting of hydroxy, acetoxy and lower alkoxy; R_3 is a member of the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkenoxy-carbonyl; and *n* is either 1 or 2; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

27. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the compound is halofuginone.